any representation from the Weavers Cooperative Societies and other Organisations seeking more concessions/relaxations for handloom weaver;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the relaxations/concessions being provided to the handloom weavers at present?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, the Union Govt. keeps on receiving representations from various cooperative societies and other Organisations seeking more concessions/ relaxations for handloom weavers pertaining to developmental schemes implemented by the Govt. and issues of general interest. All the representations are considered and acted upon, within the permissible frame work of approved guidelines. Necessary modifications/ alterations/additions is also carried out on the basis of representation as per the merit of the issue.

(c) Details of the relaxations/concessions being provided to the handloom weavers at present inter-alia include the following :-

(i) Assistance under Janata Cloth Scheme.

(ii) Assistance under Mill Gate Price Scheme.

(iii) Cash Credit facilities through cooperative Banks and Commercial Banks under NABARD refinance.

(iv) Market Development Assistance.

(v) Assistance for participation in National Handloom Expos and Mini Handloom Expos.

(vi) Fiscal concession to handloom sector.

(vii) Assistance through various weavers service centres.

(viii) Assistance under various other ongoing schemes such as Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units, Project Package Scheme, IHVD Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers, etc.

Setting up of Industries in Backward and Hilly Areas

*127. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have chalked out any plan for setting up of industries for the development of backward and hilly areas of the country under its Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted so as to translate the plan into action; and

(c) the areas in which industries are likely to be set up and the kind of industries to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Union of India plays a supportive and pro-active role in the implementation of area-specific policy initiatives of State Governments for development of industry. In this direction, at present, Centrally sponsored schemes like the Transport Subsidy Scheme, the Growth Centre Scheme and the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme are being implemented by the Ministry of Industry for the accelerated inudstrial development particularly of the hilly, backward and inaccessible regions of the country. The report of the review group set up by Ministry of Finance for considering Taluka/District as an indicator for sanctioning tax holiday under Section 80 IA is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Import of Blank Coins

*128. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of coins in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to increase their availability;

(c) whether the Government also propose to import blank coins; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There is temporary shortage of coins as the currency notes of Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 have been fully coinised raising the demand for coins.

(b) The Government is executing the Mint's modernisation project at India Government Mints, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai. The new plants and machinery are expected to be commissioned by June, 1997. Thereafter the capacity of the Mints will substantially go up to meet the requirement of coins.

(c) and (d). With a view to increasing production of coins, Government procures coin blanks both from indigenous and foreign sources. Action for procurement of 4000 MT stainless steel coin blanks and 3000 MT cupro-nickel coin blanks has been initiated.

World Bank Loan for Power Sector

*129. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects in India for which Asian Development Bank has sanctioned loan recently;

(b) the number of power projects which are proposed to be set up in U.P.;